

Foundation for Code of Ethics

- Client autonomy, privacy, and self-determination
- Objectivity and abstaining from abuse
- Honesty and equity of service
- Compassion and respect for individuals

Foundation for Code of Ethics

- Social responsibility
- Confidentiality
- Working within one's range of competence

NVASC Background

- Established in 2000 by the Office for Victims of Crime
- Created for victim assistance providers
 - program standards
 - competency standards
 - ethical standards of conduct

NVASC Ethical Standards address these areas

1. Scope of services
2. Coordinating with the community
3. Direct services
4. Administration and evaluation

Values & Responses to Victims

Exploring Values

- Distinction between personal and professional values
- Importance of self-awareness
- Keeping personal attitudes from interfering with professional services

Terms to know

- *Values* are the ideals or beliefs that an individual or group aspire to.
- *Morals* relate to making decisions between right and wrong.
- *Ethics* is the articulation of standards of behavior that reflect those values or morals.

Behind ethical decisions are

- Your character
- Your commitment
- Your personal viewpoint

Assault Victim Vignette

Discussion Questions

- Any hesitations about working with this victim?
- Values that cause you to feel this way?
- How might negative feelings affect your professional relationship with victim?

Continued

Discussion Questions

- What can you do to put the client's interests first?
- Discuss other unlikable victims and how you handled these situations?

Making Ethical Decisions

Decision-Making Process

- Assess facts
- Identify ethical standards and practical considerations
- Brainstorm at least 3 courses of action

Decision-Making Process

- Consult peers or supervisor
- Choose the best option and act
- Evaluate

Common Ethical Issues

- Personal & professional boundaries
- Multiple relationships
- Confidentiality
- Legal advocacy vs. legal advice
- Professional competence

Elderly Victim Vignette

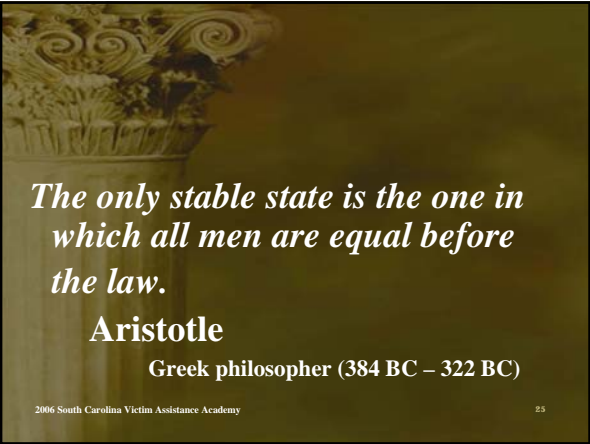


Disclosing Victim Vignette



Defining Ethics

a branch of philosophy; the formal study of moral standards and conduct



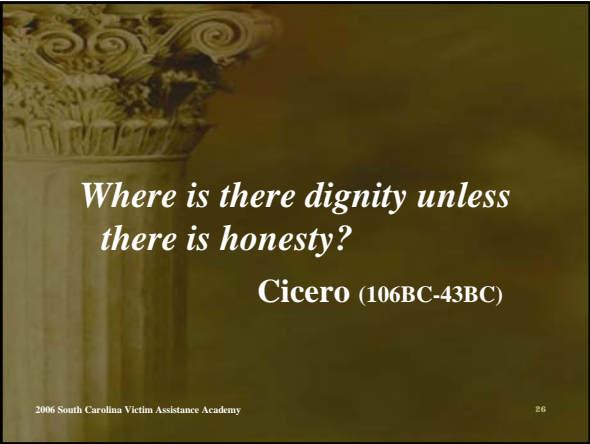
The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.

Aristotle

Greek philosopher (384 BC – 322 BC)

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Where is there dignity unless there is honesty?

Cicero (106BC-43BC)

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Utilitarianism **John Stuart Mill**

Choose the individual action leading to the greatest good for the greatest number of people or that causes the least amount of harm for the greatest number of people.

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Definitions

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Case Questions

- Do you have any hesitations about working with this victim? If so, what are they?
- What values do you hold that cause you to feel this way?
- How might the negative feelings you have toward the victim affect your personal relationship with him?
- What can you do to set aside these negative feelings and put the client's interest first?
- Talk about other "difficult" victims you have worked with. How did you handle these situations?

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